**Terms of Reference**

**(input to NBDC)**

**Consultant: Doug Merrey**

**Background**

The Nile Basin Development Challenge (NBDC) is funded by the CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food ([CPWF](http://www.waterandfood.org)). The Programme aims to improve the resilience of rural livelihoods in the Ethiopian highlands through a landscape approach to rainwater management.

The NBDC Challenge comprises [five linked projects](http://nilebdc.org/projects/) examining: 1) Learning from the past; 2) developing integrated rainwater management strategies; 3) targeting and scaling out of rainwater management innovations; 4) assessing and anticipating the consequences of innovation in rainwater management systems; and 5) catalyzing platforms for learning, communication and coordination across the projects. Projects 1 and 3 have/are at completion with the other projects utilising the information and knowledge gained. The projects are being undertaken by a range of international (mainly CGIAR) research organisations together with local national research partnerships.

Basin leadership was previously provided by Dr Tilahun Amede but following Dr Amede’s departure in Sept 2012, new arrangements are being put in place to bring the NBDC to a successful conclusion with direct CPWF funding to end 2013, and explore options for continuing the work through new funding arrangements.

As part of the new arrangement for NBDC basin leadership and key responsibilities under the Change and Coordination Project (N5), we propose to engage an international consultant to provide support to the Programme in critically evaluating progress in achieving the outcomes envisaged at Programme inception (and through the reflection process) and helping the NBDC to rationalize activities to focus on achieving realistic outcomes during the remainder of project life. As research results emerge from each project we recognise the need to continually understand these not only in terms of each project but in relation to the NBDC programme as a whole. Reinforcing these results, ensuring programme coherence and relevance, identifying key gaps, opportunities and bringing the value of an external critical eye with insider knowledge would greatly benefit the programme.

**Key activities**

**Overarching aim**

We expect the consultant to use his or her knowledge of Ethiopia, the NBDC, the key players, our partners as well as the research teams, as well as CRP5 (WLE) to help make sense of what we have emerging from the projects in terms of the research and how this can be reinforced. Where we may be going off track their input will be vital in seeing where this may be an innovation/opportunity or simply a distraction given our limited resources within the time left of the project.

**Specific activities**

* Review project documents, including the outcome logic models developed at programme inception for each project.
* Liaise with project leaders to assess progress towards achieving the outcomes originally envisaged.
* Support project leaders in revising OLM’s and milestone plans to focus on what is realistically achievable in the remaining lifetime of the programme in consultation with Basin Leaders (Simon Langan and Alan Duncan).
* Consider linkages between projects and how these might be strengthened for greater programme coherence and provide input to furthering the linkages to the other CPWF basins
* Review draft journal articles for program teams on request, to help optimize their quality.
* Co-ordinate preparation of progress reports for N projects and draft overall report for the NBDC in April 2013, Oct 2013 and draft an overall completion report by Dec 2013.
* Assist NBDC in its liaison with CRP5 WLE and consider the options for both wide dissemination of results and an exit strategy appropriate to the needs of partners and sponsors.

**Management**

The consultant will report directly to the NBDC joint basin leaders, Alan Duncan and Simon Langan.

**Time commitment**

Maximum of 68 days beginning Nov 1, 2012 and finishing Dec 31, 2013.

The maximum days or minimum of 1 day per week would also involve some face-to-face time in Addis Ababa. Three visits are envisaged during the consultancy period – duration and purpose to be worked out as the consultancy proceeds.

**Payment**

Quarterly on the basis of short reports of work undertaken and number of days worked. The consultant is expected to submit invoice for the number of days worked.